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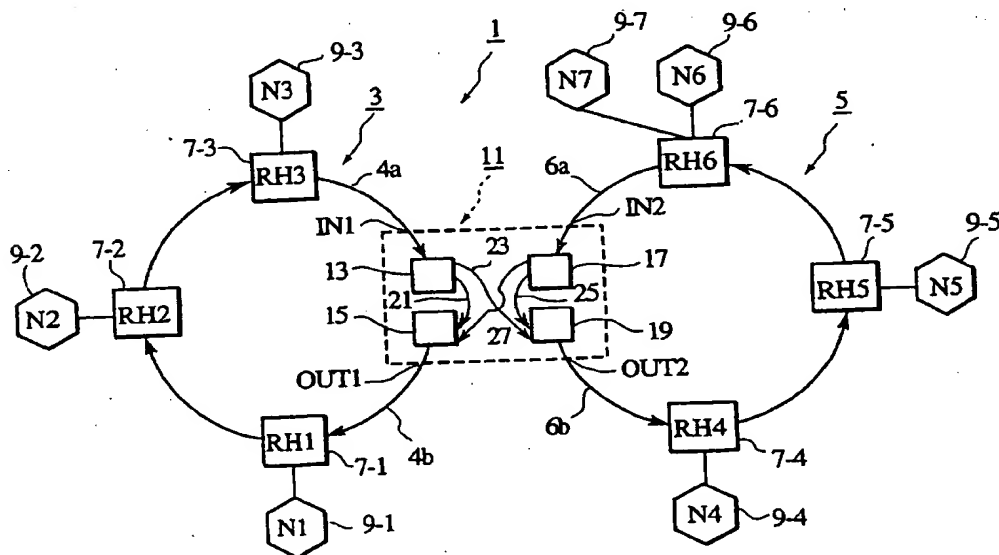
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(54) Communication method, communication system, and gate way used in the communication system

(57) Upon executing data exchange between a pair of LAN's (3, 5) via a gate way (11), a root hub (RH1-RH6) transmits the communication data, in an address describing area of which source/destination addresses are described, and a gate way (11) decodes the source/destination addresses included in received communication

data, decides whether or not the source and the destination belong to the same LAN based on decoded source/destination addresses and attribution identification information, selects an appropriate route as the destination of the communication data based on a result of this attribution decision, and then transmits the communication data to the destination via selected route.

FIG. 1





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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			H04L
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 24 July 2003	Examiner García Bolos, R
<p><b>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</b></p> <p>X: particularly relevant if taken alone Y: particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A: technological background O: non-written disclosure P: intermediate document</p> <p>T: theory or principle underlying the invention E: earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D: document cited in the application L: document cited for other reasons &amp;: member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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# ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 98 10 3032

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